

# East Fork Lewis River Partnership for clean water

## East Fork Lewis River Partnership - Next Steps & Meeting Summary February 26, 2019, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The second full [East Fork Lewis River Partnership](#) meeting was held on February 26, 2019, in the City of La Center. Forty eight partners, representing twenty four different organizations attended the meeting. Attendees included private landowners, and representatives from local, regional, and state governments; and non-profits. Twenty of the meeting participants (around 42 percent of all participants) were attending an East Fork Lewis River Partnership meeting for the first time.

The [agenda](#) and purpose of this meeting was to receive updates on projects and programs in the East Fork Lewis River, and to start discussing strategies for public education and outreach, and monitoring programs.

### Next Steps

#### Public Education, Outreach, and Monitoring - Please Complete [Survey](#)

The East Fork Lewis River Partnership will develop strategies for public education, outreach, and monitoring. To support strategy development, please complete this [Survey](#). Notes from the [short facilitated discussion](#) are available.

### February 2019 - Meeting Summary

- Partners were welcomed to the meeting by the Department of Ecology and the City of La Center.
- A [presentation providing an overview of the Partnership and updates](#) on what has happened since August 2018 was provided by **Devan Rostorfer, TMDL Lead for the Department of Ecology**.
- Following the overview, **Steve West from the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB)** [presented on the East Fork Lewis River Recovery Plan Programmatic Review](#). This presentation provided a historical overview of land-use change in the East Fork Lewis River Watershed. The goal of the review effort was to inventory and evaluate the current status of program implementation since LCFRB's Recovery Plan was published in 2004. This evaluation also helped answer key questions about program implementation including what activities have been implemented, what achievements have been accomplishment, and what challenges partners face.
- Updates on temperature work were also provided to the Partnership.
- **Tom Wadsworth, District Fish Biologist for Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife Region 5** [presented on fish population trends, temperature monitoring, and changes in fisheries management](#) in the East Fork Lewis River. Beginning in 2018, the East Fork Lewis River is closed for fishing from July 16 through September 15 due to warm, low water conditions.

## East Fork Lewis River

# Partnership for clean water

- **Chris Hathaway, the Community Programs Director for the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP)** also provided updates. Chris highlighted LCEP's monitoring and restoration activities in the watershed including the Ridgefield Pits Technical Advisory Committee, and a future project to restore a property on Mason Creek in partnership with Clark County Legacy Lands program. Chris also talked about potential cold water refugia analyses and LCEP's experience implementing the La Center bottoms project.
- Bacteria projects were also highlighted by multiple partners.
- **Shawn Ultican and Jennifer Riedmayer, Nonpoint Source Specialist from the Department of Ecology** [presented on their proactive nonpoint source investigation](#) work in McCormick, Brezee, and Jenny Creeks. They also introduced a future outreach effort they have been working on to engage private landowners to implement water quality improvements on their properties. An important thing to remember – if you see something, say something! Ecology relies on local eyes and ears in the watershed to address pollution issues. [All environmental complaints can be reported online.](#)
- **Matt Jenkins, Public Works Manager for the City of La Center** provided updates on the city's efforts to reduce bacteria in Brezee Creek. Recently the City identified and corrected multiple cross connections where private sanitary systems were connected to La Center's municipal stormwater system. La Center worked with Clark County Public Health, Clark Regional Wastewater District, Department of Ecology, residents, and a private contractor to fix the issue. Thank you to the City of La Center for working to reduce bacteria loads to the East Fork Lewis River watershed.
- **Rod Swanson, Stormwater Program Manager from Clark County Public Works (CCPW) Clean Water Division** highlighted the County's contribution to the East Fork Lewis River work. CCPW is currently updating its ditch inventory in the lower East Fork Lewis River watershed, and is also collecting water quality samples in the watershed to prepare a Clark County 2020 Stream Health Report. The County is also working on a Microbial Source Tracking project in another watershed that will be completed this summer.
- **Leanne Whitesell, Funding Coordinator for Department of Ecology's Southwest Region** [provided a presentation on Ecology's Combined Water Quality Funding](#). Leanne highlighted what makes a competitive grant application and also highlighted important dates for grant applications. Grant workshops will likely be held in August of 2019, and the application period will be open from August to October 2019. Leanne also introduced Ecology's new online [Grants and Loans Map](#), and highlighted the McCormick Creek Riparian Restoration project proposed by Clark County Public Utilities District, which is on [the Draft Funding Offer List for FY 2020](#). These resources are summarized in an [Ecology Funding Handout](#).
- Partners also had the opportunity to participate in a short [facilitated discussion](#) on public education, outreach, and monitoring programs in the East Fork Lewis River.

# East Fork Lewis River Partnership for clean water

- The meeting ended with a discussion on next steps. Ecology's main focus for Spring 2019 are writing the Draft Water Cleanup Plan and launching proactive nonpoint source investigation and outreach in the Lower Watershed. Some partners were interested in a potential spring or summer picnic for the East Fork Lewis River Partnership.
- The agenda, presentations, meeting materials, and more [information](#) about the partnership are all available on the [East Fork Lewis River Ezview](#) webpage. This webpage serves as a repository for all meeting materials related to the East Fork Lewis River Partnership.

## Reminder!

- Please complete the [Public Education, Outreach, and Monitoring Survey for the East Fork Lewis River Partnership](#)

## Thank you for your partnership!

Thank you to the following organizations for attending the February East Fork Lewis River Partnership meeting.

- **Local and Regional** - Clark County Public Works, Clark County Community Development, Clark County Legacy Lands Program, City of La Center, City of Battle Ground, Clark Public Utilities, Clark Conservation District, Clark Regional Wastewater District, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, and Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group.
- **State** - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Transportation, and Washington Department of Ecology.
- **Nonprofit** - Washington State University Clark County Extension, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, Columbia Land Trust, Watershed Alliance of Southwest Washington, Friends of the East Fork, Friends of Clark County, Salmon Creek Fly Fishers, Clark-Skamania Fly Fishers, Trout Unlimited, and the East Fork Community Coalition.

A special thank you to all of the private landowners and residents that attended the Partnership meeting on February 26, 2019. At this time, the next Partnership meeting has not been scheduled. Information regarding future meetings will be sent through email.

## Until next time!

### Ecology's East Fork Lewis River Team Members,

- [Devan Rostorfer](#), TMDL Lead / Water Quality Specialist.
- [Shawn Ultican](#), Nonpoint Source / Water Quality Specialist.
- [Jennifer Riedmayer](#), Nonpoint Source / Water Quality Specialist.
- [Andrew Kolosseus](#), Water Quality Program.